

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are pending in the application. Claim 6 is now cancelled.

In the specification the Examiner set forth the language required for a proper abstract. Accordingly, a new abstract is filed herewith.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Fontaine et al. (US 3,606,384).

Claims 7 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Dependent claim 7 was noted to recite structural limitations of a guide pin having a ball bearing assembly for supporting a cardan shaft, which extends through the extension device. Dependent claim 8 was noted to recite the structural limitation of a brake disc arranged on the cardan shaft in co-operating with a brake caliper that is fixedly connected to the extension device.

Claim 1 is now amended to include the limitations of claims 6 and 7 with the exception that the recitation of a bearing, preferably a ball bearing assembly for supporting the cardan shaft, is more broadly recited as a means for supporting a cardan shaft, and claim 7 is amended to recite that the means for supporting a cardan shaft comprises a bearing which is more definitely claimed as a ball bearing assembly, in newly presented dependent claim 9. Notwithstanding the fact that the limitations of claim 7 contain allowable

subject matter by virtue of the recitation “a bearing, preferably a ball bearing assembly”, it is submitted that the broader recitation of “means for supporting a cardan shaft portion, extending through the extension device” is patentable, and therefore, in condition for allowance. Since claim 8 is now dependent from independent claim 1, as well as newly independent claim 9, all the claims now present in the application are deemed to be in condition for allowance, and therefore, further favorable action is requested since the other dependent claims 2-5 depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1.

Conclusion

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

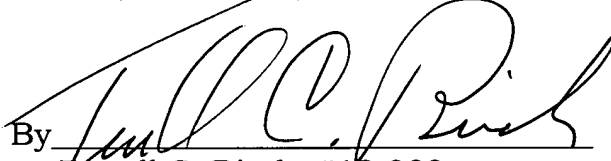
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William L. Gates (Reg. No. 20,848) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/088,584

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

TCB/WLG/fjl
1807-0160P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)